

Panama City Pilot

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PANAMA CITY, FLA., SEPT. 5, 1907.

Prosperity from Cotton.

Good judges estimate that the cotton crop of Alabama and Georgia will be fully an average one this year, and will be sold for more than a cotton crop was ever sold for before. Governor Smith is out with a statement that Georgia alone will receive over \$100,000,000 for its cotton crop.

Experts and officials in charge of statistics are stating that 15 cent cotton is a probability, and the demands from the mills, both here and in Europe, are greater than at this time in any previous year. It is admitted that it is possible that the American exporter in an endeavor later on to do a cut throat business may throw cotton on to the market in such quantities as to break it, but if the farmers who have the matter in their own hands will check such a move, they will in a few months realize the advance that seems possible.

A prominent Southern exporter who is traveling in Europe looking over the situation has this to say of the condition of the mills.

All here, whether buyers or sellers of cotton or yarns, admit unhesitatingly and without exception that mills all over Europe are doing a larger and more profitable business than last year, yarns being the equivalent of 2 cents higher for raw cotton; in other words, the mills could pay 2 cents more for cotton and still make the same enormous profits as last year. I have this from the mills and the yarn dealers themselves. At this moment there is little doing in yarn for the reason that the mills are fully engaged for all next year, 1908, and are simply unable to book any more new business.

The growers this fall start the delivery of their crop in better condition financially than ever before. For a year past money has been deposited in the banks by all classes, the farmer included, and he is not now necessarily compelled to sell unless the price warrants. This prosperous condition is coextensive with the cotton belt, and though some parts of it are showing a larger crop than others, yet none show a failure, and it is safe to say that over \$650,000,000 will be paid to southern farmers within the next six months for cotton alone.

The Cartoon.

Since that prince of cartoonists Thomas Nast won his spurs, and attained a world wide reputation by breaking up the Peace party some forty odd years ago, and later showed his wonderful power in smashing the Tweed ring in New York city, the cartoon has taken an unquestioned place in this country in the molding of public opinion through the medium of the press. The telling subtlety often display by the piquant cartoon attains results that the writer, though he may be exceptionally brilliant and able, fails to achieve. Therefore the versatile and brilliant cartoonist occupies a place on the up to date newspaper staff that is not surpassed by any other of its members. The PILOT was led to speak of this through noting some very telling work being done by Calvert Smith, the exceedingly clever cartoonist of the Times-Union. Though, like the writers, forced to grind out his stint daily regardless of physical or mental conditions, his average is very good, while occasionally there comes a picture that produces results exceedingly out of all proportion to the effort put forth.

It is predicted that Florida will go the way of Georgia, then will follow Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, &c., until we have a solid South for prohibition. May it be no false prophet who has opened his mouth in dark sayings of old.

A New Railroad Chartered.

On August 24th notice of incorporation of a new railroad was received at the office of Secretary of State of Alabama, at Montgomery, the name being the Alabama, Florida and Gulf Railway. The nominal capitalization was \$16,000. This is the extension of the Chipley road northeastward, as has been spoken of by the PILOT in previous issues. The general offices of the company it is said will be at Slocumb, Ala., and the principal towns through which the road is routed are starting at Chipley, Fla., Slocumb, Enterprise, Noma, and Troy, Ala.

At the latter point this road would make connection with the almost air line of the Atlantic Coast Line to Montgomery, offering exceptional facilities for direct traffic with the northwest. It also crosses a branch of the Atlantic Coast Line at Enterprise, and one of the branches of the Central of Georgia at Slocumb. It is laid out through an undeveloped railway country, which is rich agriculturally, and would undoubtedly prove a paying line.

The length of the proposed line is given at 120 miles, and it is stated in the notice that the road will run from Chipley, Fla., to Troy, Ala. The incorporators are given as follows: Alabama & Florida Lumber Co., the Noma Mercantile Co., Malone-Bealle Company, Faircloth-Sergeant Company, Morris Lmber Co., M. E. Daughy, L. P. Anthony, J. M. Pilcher, W. A. Fountain, A. Pelhan, J. A. Bateman, G. H. Herring, G. L. Weed, Dalton Drug Co., J. E. J. Holland, J. C. Ansley, J. C. Rigell, W. D. Grant, J. C. Davis, R. M. Jones, W. R. Watson, W. R. Deal, A. L. Kelly, A. C. Kelly, G. E. Hawkins and J. H. Ward.

With the completion of this line, and there seems to be no reasonable doubt but that it will be built at an early date, with its southern extension, our Chipley road so called, to this point, the road will form one of the shortest and best routes to reach northwest points, and the citizens of the Bay country can congratulate themselves upon the fact that the wide awake business men of South Alabama have taken this proposition in hand, and will no doubt rush it to completion. It is stated they deposited \$100,000.00 in the bank to aid in its building even before the charter was applied for.

If machines can be made to talk what man cannot talk, and vehicles in the air be forced to walk where man could not walk, and instruments constructed to see what the human eye cannot perceive, who dare say we may not some day catch a photograph of the sky scrapers, cathedrals, and monuments of Mars? Look at her now! Is she not beautiful?

"Oh fudge said the Judge,
Oh fury said the Jury."

Until the Standard Oil Company's magnificent fine the hue and cry of all the capitalistic crowd was to the effect that the Government should go after the corporations if they must prosecute some one, and let the officers thereof alone; then the wiley official with an indifferent shrug and the contemptuous "Oh fudge" hid securely behind the portly figure of Madame Corporation, but when Judge Landis showed what the heavy hand of the law might do if laid on madams shoulder up bobs her children everywhere exclaiming "Oh fury" let the individual official now be prosecuted. "We pray thee have us excused."

"When a man is a god to himself he is always just the opposite to others."

This sermonette contains volumes for the thoughtful man, not that he needs its admonition, for a thinker would not so interpret his life nor life in general, but he applies its principles to the cowardly, caving, conceited, brow-beating, blatant youth, of the present time, and to the pompous, scant-brained, self conceited, bullying-excuse-of-a-man of to day, and counts himself fortunate to have escaped so great condemnation. Condemnation it certainly must be for one to offer continually the sacrifice of self glorification and pour out the libations of self praise upon the altar of the self god which when described is said to be full of all hatred, strife, envyings, jealousies, backbitings, and all manner of evil hush.

Postal Delinquencies.

Again we are up against it in the matter of postal service, this time between St Andrew and Chipley. It is stated that the Department has ordered that this mail, which is in a local sack, shall lay over 24 hours at Anderson, as the mail for that place is placed in that sack, and there being no one there when it arrives to take out the Anderson mail, all mail for the several other other offices has to lay over there. This is about a sample of the way that the Post Office Department does business in this region, and show as much indifference to the rights of our people as though we were in Central Africa. But we have no votes to offer, therefore have nothing to attract the attention of a republican office holder this way. And the people must continue to put up with such infamous treatment just so long as that party remains in power.

Standing Pine.

From the Bureau of Forestry at Washington we gather the following figures relative to the amount of pine timber left standing in the pine districts of Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota, and the southern states, on January 1st, 1907. The Bureau reports the amount of standing pine in the southern states at that time as 200,000,000,000 feet.

In 1906 the total product, according to statistical compilation, was 11,500,000,000 feet. At the present rate of cutting the supply will have been exhausted long before a second crop can be available for commercial purposes.

The standing pine of the three old pine states—Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota—probably does not exceed 20,000,000,000 feet. Last year the total cut of pine in these three states was about 3,292,000,000 feet. At that rate the stumpage will be exhausted in six or seven years. The original growth in these states was approximately 400,000,000,000 feet. The greater part has been cut off since 1873.

Pennsylvania for many years was supreme in white pine. The boom on the west branch of the Susquehanna at the height of production handled 1,000,000,000 feet per annum. The white pine of that state practically has all been cut. The pine of New England and New York was mostly exhausted years ago.

On this subject Secretary Wilson spoke as follows on August 28th in Chicago.

"If better care be not taken and more general propagation and fostering of present conditions not observed, the forests of the United States will be wiped out inside of ten years." The timber of Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota is practically wiped out. He said: "Forests are now guarded, and the government employs thousands of watchmen, but unless something is done we will not have enough hard wood in fifteen years to make an old fashioned bedstead."

Prohibition Wave in Jacksonville.

There is now a probability of a local option election being held in Jacksonville and Duval county. The prohibition agitation in the Florida metropolis comes as a result of the Georgia prohibition law and already a petition for an election is now being circulated. If 1,125 names are secured, an election must be held and one of the hottest fights in the history of the state is promised. Should Duval county go dry, the plans of several Georgia whisky houses will be interfered with, as several engaged in the business in Georgia had planned to move to Florida.

The total qualified vote in Duval county is now about 4,500. As it would take the signatures of 25 per cent of the registered voters to petition before the election could be called it will be seen that those petitions would have to be signed by at least 1,125 persons, and then it would take a majority, or about 2,250 votes, to carry the election if one should be called.

While the mere announcement that such a movement is on foot in the county has stirred up considerable interest, the liquor dealers are not particularly uneasy, for they do not believe that the required number of signatures can be secured to the petition calling for an election. Then, they are confident that the temperance people cannot get a majority of the registered voters of the county to vote in favor of the county going dry.

But the fact remains that the movement is on foot and that the temperance people are working with a determination to win, if possible.—Exchange.

The publisher of the Holmes County Advertiser is calling loudly for the money that is due him from delinquent subscribers. The person who would take such a lively, bright, and finely printed local paper as the Advertiser, and fail to pay for the same, deserves but little attention from the Lord, and very much from the other chap.

Contract for Construction Let.

According to a news item from Augusta, Ga., work on the Georgia and Florida railroad will be started within a short time. The road will run from Augusta to Madison, this state, and will be a direct line from Augusta to the Gulf of Mexico. Vice President Scott, who is in Baltimore now, has telephoned General Manager Turner that the contract for the construction work has been let to Scheffeld & sons of Philadelphia. Twenty new engines have been ordered and it is expected that within a year's time the connecting links will be joined and through trains will be run to Madison.—Exchange.

We were shown a small bale of hay Wednesday, of the Japanese Kudzu Vine, the new forage plant being raised and introduced by C. E. Pleas. It is of rapid, prolific growth and makes fine, nutritious hay; it keeps well and stock are exceedingly fond of it.—Chipley Verdict

Bermuda Onions.

Marcus Wendt of Jacksonville Fla., in the Times Union, gives his method of successfully growing Bermuda onions in Florida, which we herewith give for the benefit of our onion growers.

I notice in the Agriculturalist a reprinted article saying that Bermuda onions will not grow well in Florida. I have raised them this year right in the outskirts of Jacksonville six inches across, mild and delicious in flavor. I planted them six inches apart in the rows and they dented each other.

I learned fifteen years ago from a Minorcan sailer who had lived for some time in the Bermudas how they raise onions in those islands, and have been waiting ever since to put his directions in practice. The secret is they must grow mostly on the surface of the ground and must have a pinch of chicken manure to each onion scattered between the rows where rain can wash it in. Don't ridge them, cultivate flat.

I grew them from seeds, thus avoiding the danger of even the slightest wilting. Then after they had been transplanted and began to make good growth I partly uncovered them. By keeping them well weeded and stirring the ground frequently I got a vigorous growth. All of them grew and the family pronounced them delicious. I raised them only for my own table.

I believe in the Bermuda onion and shall raise it for the market as soon as I can get ground enough.

The railroads of the country must spend \$1,000,000,000 during the next twelve months if they are to handle without delay the crops of 1908, and the business that will certainly be offered them. Two hundred millions of that sum should be expended in the south, but how are these stupendous sums to be secured if state and federal regulations continue to limit the means of profit while increasing the burden of taxation?—Times-Union.

When such men as Mayes, of the Pensacola Journal, and Crawford, of the News, lend their papers for prohibition and christianity, we are sure to get the former unadulterated, and secure the latter purged of all hypocritical cant.

The directors of the Southern Railway company, at their meeting in New York, Friday, cut the semi-annual dividend of the preferred stock of the company from 2½ to 1½ per cent. President Finley made the following statement:

"The directors considered that under existing conditions of high prices of supplies, material and labor, of increasing taxes and legislative reduction of revenues, it was the part of conservative prudence to limit the distribution of the profits of the company at least until the permanent effects of such conditions can be fairly measured."—Exchange.

State News.

J. T. Balkcom, of Millville, is spending a few days with home folks and friends.—Union correspondent Advertiser.

The celery crop in the Sanford section last year yielded 822 carloads and netted \$411,000. This is not such a poor showing for one of Florida's "infant industries."—Palatka Times Herald.

We caught a glimpse of President Roos—no President Bullock on our streets the other eve. But we haven't seen him since. Guess he called in passing from St Andrew to Chipley.—Westville Cor. Advertiser.

The orange crop of the state is variously estimated at from 15 per cent of last year's crop up to 3,000,000 boxes. The crop seems to be large in some places and short in others. Our opinion is that the crop of the state is a little short of last year, but not much.—Cocoa News.

Mr C. K. McQuarie informs us that he has two acres of corn on his farm from which he will gather seventy-five bushels per acre; also that he has land from which, in addition to a crop of early spring truck, he will harvest three cuttings of hay. See any starvation about this?—DeFuniak Breeze.

A few years ago, indeed a very few, 30 bushels of corn to the acre was a crop talked about. Now an average of 40 bushels is spoken of as glibly as you please, and 100 bushels is the mark aimed at. The soil is no better, the climate no more perfect—the difference in the tillage of the land. There are farmers yet in Walton county who are content with the old crop. Are you one of them?—DeFuniak Breeze.

J. T. Bowen and family left Sunday for an outing at the Pay.—Chipley Banner.

Mrs T. D. Sale, of Anderson, spent Sunday here enroute to Anderson.—Chipley Banner.

Mrs Ina Caswell, of Panama City, has been spending some time with her sister, Mrs S. Thibos.—Orange Hill Correspondence Chipley Banner.

Wells Bros. bought the first bale of cotton of the season Monday, for which they paid twelve and five-eighths cents per pound. It weighed 569 pounds, and was brought in by J. S. Wachob.—Chipley Banner.

Editor PILOT:

On Tuesday Aug. 20th, we, by invitation, attended the Potter family eighth annual reunion held at Ed M. Potters, at Alfred Station, N. Y. We met there many old acquaintances, some whom I had not met in more than fifty years, and quite a number of the younger members of the family whom I had never met before, to the total of 102. All ages from 81 years down to just a few months old.

Had a jolly good visiting time. A very sumptuous dinner was served on the pleasant lawn. A fine selection of songs, recitations and speeches, very artistically rendered, showed that the program committee selections had been wisely made, and had been met with a hearty good will by the persons called upon. But then, this is right close to the famous "Alfred Varsity" so nearly everybody is loaded for almost every occasion.

FORBES,
Hornell, N. Y.

We clip the following items of interest to our Bay people from the Chipley Verdict.

C. B. Dunn and J. W. Williams returned Saturday night from a short business trip to St Andrews.

Several wagons were up from the Bay with sal. fish during the week, which reminds us that the season is advancing.

Mr Thaw, who has been here some days delivering cars to the B. & C. & St A. Ry., left Tuesday night for the north.

A. J. Gay was up from the Bay country for a day this week and made the Verdict a pleasant call. He says the railroad work is moving ahead satisfactorily and that trains will be running to the Bay in the near future.